

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend without prejudice the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 12, of the Substitute Specification as follows:

--Figure 2 clarifies the device of the present invention, using a block diagram. In block 21, relative velocity VR is ascertained by a precrash sensor system. In block 20, reference velocity VE is determined as shown above, e.g. using the wheel velocities and/or a tachometer. A classification algorithm 22, which is computed on a processor of the control unit, e.g. the airbag control unit, determines the object velocity and its acceleration from the time characteristic of velocities VR and VE. Algorithm 22 classifies vehicle 11 from these velocities and the acceleration. It then assigns, to object 11, predefined object classes 23 which are defined by velocity VO and the acceleration. In block 26, the restraining devices are triggered as a function of relative velocity 25 and further crash parameters, such as the decelerations that are generated in block 24. In this case, the restraining devices may be, e.g. restraining devices R1 a seat-belt tensioner 27, R2 a front airbag 28, and RN a front-passenger-side airbag 29.--.